

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 JUSE-00 AID-05

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R 191625Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8525

UNCLAS TUNIS 1622

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR/AG TS

SUBJ:REQUEST FOR VISIT TO US BY SENIOR GOT NARCOTICS

OFFICIAL

REF: TUNIS 1520; STATE 49067

1. TO CONVEY TO GOT CONTENTS STATE REFTEL EMBOFF MADE APPOINTMENT WITH TAHAR BEN REDJEB, DIRECTOR OF POLICE JUDICIAIRE, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. BEN REDJEB IS IMMEDIATE SENIOR TO MONGI KAOUASH, WHO HEADS NARCOTIC DIVISION, AND BEN REDJEB HAS BEEN EXTREMELY HELPFUL AND INTERESTED IN USG/GOT COOPERATION IN NARCOTICS MATTERS. HE PERSONALLY HANDLED ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUCCESSFUL DEA TRAINING SEMINAR STAGED IN TUNIS LAST JUNE.

2. BEN RADJEB WAS UNABLE KEEP APPOINTMENT WITH EMBOFF WHO, AS REPORTED REFTEL, DISCUSSED CUSTOMS SERVICE TRAINING COURSE WITH KAOUASH. LATTER HAD BEEN ASKED BY BEN REDJEB TO INQUIRE WHETHER THERE ANY POSSIBILITY OF HIS, BEN REDJEB'S, MAKING A VISIT OF APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS TO UNITED STATES TO OBSERVE AMERICAN NARCOTICS CONTROL, ENFORCEMENT AND REHABILITATION TECHNIQUES. KAOUASH, WHO HAD SUCH A TOUR UNDER INTERNATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY AUSPICES IN 1973, BELIEVES FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE BY HIS BOSS OF SIMILAR PROGRAM WOULD ENHANCE TUNISIAN PERFORMANCE IN NARCOTICS FIELD, AND GIVE GOT BETTER FEEL FOR USG CONCERNS THIS AREA. IN THAT BEN UNCLASSIFIED

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REDJEB IS MOST SENIOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL DIRECTLY

CONCERNED WITH NARCOTICS CONTROL, EMBASSY AGREES WITH KAOUASH, BUT DOES NOT KNOW WHAT MIGHT BE ARRANGED OR WHAT FINANCING MIGHT BE AVAILABLE.

3. APPARENTLY BEN REDJEB WOULD PREFER TRAVEL WITH HIS WIFE WHO, AS ENGLISH INSTRUCTOR, TUNIS UNIVERSITY, WOULD BE VALUABLE COMPANION ASSISTING WITH INTERPRETATION. BEN REDJEB SPEAKS FRENCH AND ARABIC ONLY, BUT UNDERSTANDS SOME ENGLISH. VISIT IN JUNE OR JULY WOULD ENABLE MRS. BEN REDJEB TO ACCOMPANY.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE INDICATION WHETHER STATE, DEA, OR CUSTOMS SERVICE COULD LAY ON SUCH A VISIT, AND WHAT THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS MIGHT BE, SO THAT WE CAN RESPOND TO KAOUASH AND TAKE UP MATTER WITH BEN REDJEB AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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